



Our First Really Big Event Open House Celebration - February 8th

Mark Friday, February 8th on your calendar. That's the night we've scheduled our Open House to celebrate all that's new with Earth and Fire. It's a long list, starting with new owners and a virtual overhaul of how we work and what we work with. The result is and will be a more interesting and more fully stocked Earth and Fire, more attuned to making your experience here more pleasant. We hope you'll join us for our Open House. Visit anytime between 5 and 9 p.m. We'll have snacks and plenty to drink. You're welcome to stop by for a visit or choose from many new things to paint. If you're looking for a Valentine's Day gift, all of our hearty holiday merchandize will be available at 20% off regular prices

CLOCK WATCHERS BEGONE! – It's not easy to be creative with one eye on the clock so we've tossed out the whole idea of an hourly painting charge. So now, relax and enjoy your Earth and Fire experience and, whether you paint for one hour or three, the price is the same...\$8.00. Whether you paint one item or five, that's the price: EIGHT BUCKS! The only limitation is that the painting session can't span more than one day. However, since we're basically pushovers, if you start painting less than an hour before we close, we could probably be persuaded to forgo that rule.

LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY! Okay, so there's no wizard here and the closest we can come to a tin man is Tin City down the street but Dorothy would be amazed at how our shelves are groaning under the new stock population at Earth and Fire. There are Pandas and fairies, dolphins and butterflies, even some dragons and snake or two. For those whose tastes favor items with greater utility (that's *useful* for those who've not endured economics courses) we have plates and platters and mugs and jugs. There are pitchers and frames, wine coolers and vases. Currently, we have over 250 *different* products in stock and the variety is growing every day.

SO LONG, OLD PAINT – Yep, partner, we're putting all that old paint out to pasture and setting up an entirely new display filled with fresh new colors. No, it's not change for the sake of change. It's because the new stuff is much more compatible with the modern, unleaded glazes that we use. The net result will be finished products with more consistent color and it's one more step toward our key objective: to present flawless finished products.

AND, WHILE WE'RE TOSSING THINGS OUT – Our oldest and busiest kiln, lovingly nicknamed "Irene" is, like many of us who worked very hard for a long time, approaching burnout. So, we're sending Irene into retirement and replacing her with a new, computer controlled kiln with superb performance specs. Irene endured for over ten years and has added that beautiful finish to thousands of ceramic wonders for Earth and Fire customers. When the new kiln is in place (no nickname so far) we'll probably have a small party and break a bottle of champagne over its bow...or some other prominent feature.



TEAPOTS ON THE MOVE – *Thirty-two* teapots, to be exact, will be moving from our display windows to the auction block later this month. These beautiful works of art are the results of dedication and good times by a group of wonderful women working at home or in our studio. Their cause is a good one, support for the Fun Time Early Childhood Academy. The silent auction will be a part of an evening of entertainment on February 20th at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. Earth and Fire was pleased to support the efforts of these kind and creative women.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT = LADIES NIGHT – After a long hiatus, we're reinstating ladies night (AKA Girl's Night Out) at The Fire. Every Wednesday, from 5 until 9 pm, the entire studio will be the dedicated habitat of our female customers. We'll have snacks, good music (if you have a favorite CD, we'll add it to the mix), and plenty of good company. Bring along your friends (reservations are a good idea if your group totals four or more) and your own beverage if you prefer.



LAGNIAPPE FOR THE FRIENDS OF EARTH AND FIRE – In Louisiana and particularly New Orleans this familiar word (pronounced lan-yap) means to add a little extra. That's what we were seeking to do when we added the newest products to our inventory. These tiny dimensional accents can be bonded to any flat surface on our stock items and when painted, glazed, and fired they increase the color and interest. Dozens are available in a variety of subjects.

So far our guests have added them to platters, picture frames, and even to the inside bottom of a coffee mug. (Nothing like seeing a lobster down there each time you take a sip!) Check these out next time you visit.

WEB ALERT! – The new Earth and Fire web site is growing everyday as we add features and information. In the days ahead we'll be featuring photos of some of the latest work from our studio, a gallery of customer art and design, past and present; and information about Crayton Cove, the little corner of Naples bayfront we call home. Watch for special events, values, and techniques as progress continues. You'll find us at <http://earthandfire-naples.com> or just type Earth and Fire Naples into Google or Yahoo for a quick link.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT! – January was an incredible month for us and we look forward to working with all the new friends we've met. Call us, Susan or Patrick, at 261-6658 whenever you have a question or if we can help with your project, special event, or fund raiser. You can also e-mail us at paint-it@earthandfire-naples.com.